

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for preparing an enantiopure 1,3-dioxolan-4-one derivative or an enantiopure 1,3-oxathiolan-5-one derivative, which comprises

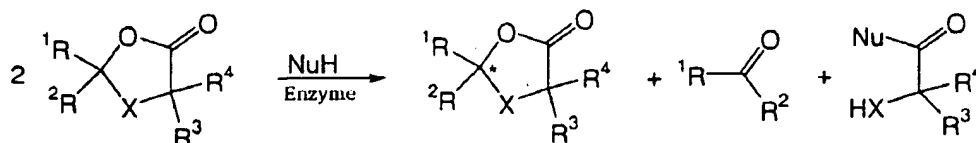
bringing a mixture containing a substance selected from the group consisting of an enantiomeric 1,3-dioxolan-4-one derivative and an enantiomeric 1,3-oxathiolan-5-one derivative and an enzyme with hydrolytic activity into contact in the presence of a nucleophile; cleaving a ring of one enantiomer selected from the group consisting of the 1,3-dioxolan-4-one ring and the 1, 3-oxathiolan-5-one ring by the enzyme with hydrolytic activity; and,

after the cleaving of one enantiomer has taken place, isolating an uncleaved enantiomer selected from the group consisting of the 1,3-dioxolan-4-one derivative and 1,3-oxathiolan-5-one derivative.

2. The process as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the mixture containing a substance selected from the group consisting of the enantiomeric 1,3-

11



Equation 5

where X = oxygen or sulfur and

the radicals R¹ and R² are different and are selected independently of one another from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted C₆-C₁₈-aryl, C₃-C₁₈-heteroaryl, C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₂-C₁₈-alkynyl, C₆-C₁₈-aryl-C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₃-C₁₈-heteroaryl-C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₆-C₁₈-aryl-C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₃-C₁₈-heteroaryl-C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkoxy-C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkoxy-C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₆-C₁₈-aryloxy-C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₆-C₁₈-aryloxy-C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, and CR⁸R⁹-O_n-(CO)_m-R¹⁰ and

the radicals R^3 and R^4 are selected independently of one another from the group consisting of substituted or

unsubstituted C_6-C_{18} -aryl, C_3-C_{18} -heteroaryl, C_1-C_{18} -alkyl, C_2-
 C_{18} -alkenyl, C_2-C_{18} -alkynyl, C_6-C_{18} -aryl- C_1-C_{18} -alkyl, $C_3-C_{18}-$
 heteroaryl- C_1-C_{18} -alkyl, C_6-C_{18} -aryl- C_2-C_{18} -alkenyl, $C_3-C_{18}-$
 heteroaryl- C_2-C_{18} -alkenyl, C_1-C_{18} -alkoxy- C_1-C_{18} -alkyl, $C_1-C_{18}-$
 alkoxy- C_2-C_{18} -alkenyl, C_6-C_{18} -aryloxy- C_1-C_{18} -alkyl, $C_6-C_{18}-$
 aryloxy- C_2-C_{18} -alkenyl, C_3-C_8 -cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8 -cycloalkyl- C_1-
 C_{18} -alkyl, and C_3-C_8 -cycloalkyl- C_2-C_{18} -alkenyl or

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the radicals R^4 and R^4 form, together with the carbon to
 which they are bonded, an unsubstituted or substituted or a
 heteroatom-containing cycloalkylidene and

Nu is OR^5 , SR^5 or NR^6R^7 , where

the radical R^5 is selected from the group consisting of H,
 substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} -alkyl, C_2-C_{18} -alkenyl, C_2-
 C_{18} -alkynyl, C_6-C_{18} -aryl- C_1-C_{18} -alkyl, C_3-C_{18} -heteroaryl- $C_1-C_{18}-$
 alkyl, C_6-C_{18} -aryl- C_2-C_{18} -alkenyl, C_3-C_{18} -heteroaryl- $C_2-C_{18}-$
 alkenyl, and

the radicals R^6 and R^7 are selected independently of one
 another from the group consisting of H, substituted or
 unsubstituted C_1-C_{18} -alkyl, C_2-C_{18} -alkenyl, C_2-C_{18} -alkynyl, C_6-
 C_{18} -aryl, C_3-C_{18} -heteroaryl, C_6-C_{18} -aryl- C_1-C_{18} -alkyl, $C_3-C_{18}-$
 heteroaryl- C_1-C_{18} -alkyl, C_6-C_{18} -aryl- C_2-C_{18} -alkenyl, and $C_3-C_{18}-$

heteroaryl-C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl

and the radicals R⁸ and R⁹ are selected independently of one another from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted C₆-C₁₈-aryl, C₃-C₁₈-heteroaryl, C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₂-C₁₈-alkynyl, C₆-C₁₈-aryl-C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₃-C₁₈-heteroaryl-C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₆-C₁₈-aryl-C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₃-C₁₈-heteroaryl-C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkoxy-C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkoxy-C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₆-C₁₈-aryloxy-C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₆-C₁₈-aryloxy-C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, and C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl-C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl or

the radicals R⁸ and R⁹ form, together with the carbon to which they are bonded, an unsubstituted or substituted or a heteroatom-containing cycloalkylidene, and

m and n are, independently of one another, 0 or 1, and the following applies to the radical R¹⁰:

if m is 0 then the radical R¹⁰ is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl or C₂-C₁₈-alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₆-C₁₈-aryl, C₃-C₁₈-heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted silaalkyl or silaaryl, and

if m is 1 then the radical R¹⁰ is selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted

or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl or C₂-C₁₈-alkynyl.

3. The process as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the enzyme with hydrolytic activity is selected from the group consisting of a lipase and an esterase.

4. The process as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the enzyme is employed in a manner selected from the group consisting of directly and in immobilized form.

5. The process as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the enzyme to dioxolanone/oxathiolanone derivative ratio, calculated as molar ratio between enzyme and dioxolanone/oxathiolanone derivative, is from 1:1 000 to 1:50 000 000.

6. The process as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the nucleophile is an oxygen-containing nucleophile.

7. The process as claimed in claim 6,

wherein the oxygen-containing nucleophile is selected from the group consisting of a lower unbranched alcohol and water.

8. The process as claimed in claim 7,

wherein the lower unbranched alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol and ethanol.

9. The process as claimed in claim 1, which is carried out in the presence of a cosolvent.

10. The process as claimed in claim 9,

wherein the cosolvent is selected from the group consisting of aliphatic hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, halogenated hydrocarbons, ethers, alcohols, esters, acetonitrile and mixtures thereof.

11. The process as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the reaction is carried out at temperatures between 0 and 75°C.

12. The process as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the reaction is carried out for between 10 minutes and 7 days.

13. The process as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the uncleaved enantiomer is isolated by removing the byproducts of the reaction and the solvent.

14. The process as claimed in claim 13,

wherein the byproducts are removed by a manner selected from the group consisting of extraction and distillation.